



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species FOR USE TO GUIDE SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY SPECIES

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species* do not have regulatory authority. Therefore, the following are recommendations only. This abbreviated version of a chapter in *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species: Volume IV* (see http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/phs_vol4_birds.pdf) has been streamlined for easier application. Where applicable, these recommendations should be put into practice consistently across a landscape to be most effective. The following recommendations are not site-specific. Where available, a professional in a relevant field (e.g., wildlife biologist) should evaluate the site and surrounding landscape when applying these recommendations.

Attach parcel map with species location indicated if available.

General Recommendations

- Protection of loons and their habitat when loons are courting, laying eggs, and rearing chicks is important for reproductive success (see table below).
- In areas where natural islands are unavailable, artificial nesting islands (e.g., sedge mats and cedar log rafts) can be provided in appropriate areas (e.g., reservoirs).
- On larger lakes (that tend to have more food, nesting shorelines, and chick-rearing habitat) loons may acclimate to heightened human disturbance levels.
- Activities elevating mercury levels should be avoided due to negative affects on loons.
- Maintain reservoirs containing nesting loons at constant water levels during egg laying and incubation periods (. 30 day period during mid- to late-spring).

Table. Recommended protective buffers for specified activities.

| Activities | Buffer width | Buffer from | Time of Year |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Construction | 490' | nest sites | year-round ^a |
| All human activities | 490' | nests sites | 15 April – 15 July ^b |
| All human activities | 490' | nursery locations | 15 July – 1 September ^b |

^a Permanent buffer. ^b Seasonal buffer.

I have read and understand the above recommendations (s) placed on Parcel # _____ located in the _____ Quarter of _____ Quarter of Section _____, Township _____, Range _____ (East/West meridian) with actual street address of _____.